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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Patent Attorney's Docket No. 026575-060

#7
DL
12-11-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
)	
Noriyuki ICHIKAWA et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3765
)	
Application No.: 09/717,236)	Examiner: A. Hoey
)	
Filed: November 22, 2000)	Confirmation No.: 1452
)	
For: CATHETER AND METHOD FOR)	
MANUFACTURING THE SAME)	

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued on September 6, 2002 in connection with the above-identified application, the following remarks are submitted.

The aforementioned Official Action states that the claims in this application are directed to two distinct inventions. As identified in the Official Action, the two inventions are as follows.

Group I invention recited in Claims 1-3 directed to a method for manufacturing a catheter.

Group II invention set forth in Claims 4-9 drawn to a catheter.

Based on the observation that the two inventions are distinct from one another and have acquired a separate status in the art by virtue of their different classifications, a

restriction requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one of the two inventions.

In response to that restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the Group I invention recited in Claims 1-3 directed to the method for manufacturing a catheter.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 6, 2002